

Shenandoah Trail Rides Guide

Horse Trip: 1-20 Mile Roundtrip

National Park Service
U. S. Department of the Interior
Shenandoah National Park
Emergency: 1-800-732-0911



North Fork Moormans River (and Paine Run option)

Map: PATC #11 (South District)

Not a suitable route for wet/winter conditions.

Trip Description: Criss-cross the spectacular North Fork Moormans River with its abundant, popular swimming holes.

Skyline Drive Parking

Parking: Blackrock Gap/Paine Run Parking

Trailer: Small 2-horse trailer

Availability: Trailer parking may be limited.

Boundary Parking

Parking: Sugar Hollow Reservoir Boundary Parking

Trailer: Goose-neck trailer

Availability: Trailer parking may be limited.

Encounters: Route travels through areas where hunting is allowed. Wear blaze orange during hunting season. This trail has heavy hiking and/or backpacking use at all times. Vehicle traffic is possible, but is limited to park employees.

Footing: Potential for troublesome stream crossings. Some sections are rough, rocky, narrow, and/or in wilderness.

Option 1 - Up to 10.4 Miles Roundtrip

Park at Blackrock Gap (Paine Run Parking), mile 87.5.

Ride down North Fork Moormans River Road for 2.2 miles. At about one mile you will exit the park. Continue on this road less than a mile, re-entering the park, now on North Fork Moormans River Trail.

Ride on North Fork Moormans River Trail for 3 miles.

When you reach Charlottesville's Sugar Hollow Reservoir, turn around and return the way you came.

If you want to continue to ride when you return to Blackrock Gap, see option 3 below.

Option 2 - 10.4 Miles, or up to 17.8 Miles Roundtrip

Park at the Charlottesville Sugar Hollow Reservoir.

Ride northwest on the gravel road, which will become North Fork Moormans River Trail for 3 miles.

Exit and re-enter the park on the gravel North Fork Moormans River Road for another 2.2 miles.

If you want to continue riding, cross Skyline Drive and ride down Paine Run Trail 3.7 miles.

Whenever you are ready, turn around and retrace your steps.

Option 3 - Up to 7.4 Miles Roundtrip

Park at Blackrock Gap (Paine Run Parking).

Ride down Paine Run Trail 3.7 miles.

Turn around, retracing your steps back to Blackrock Gap for a total of 7.4 miles.